REVOLUTION

socialist youth movement

30P / DONATION

The British National Party is a Fascist Party

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UNITE AND FIGHT! THE BNP MUST BE SMASHED *NOW!*

also inside

- is anywhere safe in the war on terror?
- the case of the missing media frenzy
- reviews of children of men + metropolis

a word from the editor

Another day, another crisis

It's crazy to think that just fifteen years ago the US government, led then by the father of the current presidential incarnate (who was also funnily enough called George Bush), promised, in a series of 'keynote' speeches, to bring peace and prosperity to the globe as the 'communist' states collapsed or restored capitalism.

If George Bush Senior had risked his fortune on the accuracy of his predictions he would today be a pauper. Luckily for him though, his family have carried on profiting from their close connections to the oil industry that is doing quite nicely despite the crisis ridden world order (e.g. BP scored profits of $19 billion in 2005).

His daddy may have promised peace but George Bush Junior has delivered the very opposite - a permanent war on the world's people with an ever more shaky pretence at humanitarian motivations. The enemy is 'terrorism' and the war is apparently without end.

The people of the Middle East clearly have not read the script. They are putting up a stiff resistance to the drive by the US to conquer the whole region. This summer, the United States' proxy state Israel suffered a humiliating defeat in Southern Lebanon at the hands of the Hezbollah resistance fighters.

At home the War on Terror means a ferocious racist campaign by the media and the state against Muslims and asylum seekers. They are creating the perfect conditions for the rise of the British National Party.

War, terrorism, racism - it doesn't sound like peace! But, are we getting richer, has capitalism brought prosperity to ordinary working class people in the north and south of the globe? Not a chance. In the new world order, everything must have a price and everything must be sacrificed (workers' rights, decent pay, good products and services, etc, etc, etc).

From Bolivia, to Mexico, to Britain, the story is the same. These policies, often referred to by their critics as 'neo-liberalism', are benefiting nobody except the rich, and more specifically the ruling classes of the imperialist world - the US, Germany, France, Japan, Britain et al.

Violence, suffering and injustice are part of the daily mechanics of the profit system - capitalism. The challenge we face is transforming the many crises (oh did we forget environmental catastrophe by the way? Yes, its coming…) into an organised mass movement that fights for the overthrow of capitalism.

That's what REVOLUTION fights for. So join us, and start by taking to the streets in the many actions and protests planned for the next few weeks...

REVOLUTION 2

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Protest!

There are a series of actions and protests happening over the next few weeks. To join the REVOLUTION crew from different towns that will be on them email **info@worldrevolution.org.uk** or keep an eye on **www.worldrevolution.org.uk** or call **07737 355 411.**

Stop the Fees!
Student Demo in London against the introduction of Top Up Fees. Called by the National Union of Students. Assemble at 11am 29th October, Malet Street outside the University of London Union for a march to Trafalgar Square (article on back page)

Stop the BNP!
BNP leaders Nick Griffin and Mark Collett will appear in court on 30th October charged with incitement to racial hatred. Their BNP supporters will hold a rally outside and anti-fascists will mobilise to confront them. Start 9am 30th October, Leeds Crown Court, Oxford Row, Leeds.

National Climate March
Big national demo against the failure of world leaders to act against the impending environmental catastrophe. Assemble 10am 4th November, outside US Embassy, Grosvenor Square for march to Trafalgar Square.

Stop NHS Privatisation!
NHS Together Lobby of Parliament, Parliament Square, 1st Nov

Thanks Josh!

Just a quick word of thanks to Josh who has come to the end of his year of full time work for REVO and Workers Power. Highlights in his year of service include leading our team at the European Social Forum (Athens), a spot of political work in Belgium, part of Revo UK delegation to international conference and other less glamorous but essential tasks.

split in REVO

A split has occurred in REVOLUTION, a grouping of members from Germany, Czech Republic and Switzerland have chosen to leave the organisation rather than work to implement the decisions of its international conference. The key question in the split was how to build REVO as a communist youth organisation - should it just be a study circle or an active campaigning group and should it fight in solidarity with the League for the Fifth International.
Our public statement on the split can be read here - **http://www.worldrevolution.org.uk/index.php?id=24,269,0,0,1,0**

60, 000 put New Labour under siege!

On September 23rd a massive demonstration was held as the warmongering, profiteering Labour Party held its annual conference in Manchester. This was the biggest protest that Manchester had seen for years, attracting 60,000 demonstrators who came from all over the UK to show their disgust at the Labour Party's policies of war, privatisation and racism.

REVOLUTION Manchester were joined by members from around the country, including London, Leicester and a big group from Leeds. All together, there were around 70 of us and we formed an excellent contingent behind our anti-imperialist banner which read "Iraq - Afghanistan - Palestine - Lebanon - Victory to the Resistance" along with our traditional "World Revolution" banner.

Nearly everyone in the contingent held a red "Revolution" flag and our excellent stewards made sure that we all kept together as we marched through the city, while Rosie, Laura, Josh and Luke led chants on the megaphone making sure that everyone got an earful of our anti-imperialist politics.

The key demand of the demonstration, organised by the Stop the War coalition and others, was for an end to the brutal occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan by US, UK and Coalition troops. But there were many issues besides this to be angry about, including the recent support given by Blair and Bush to Israel's disgusting invasion of Lebanon, the "public sector reform" policies Blair is pushing through for schools and hospitals which in reality mean privatisation, and the increased powers Blair has given to police allowing them to oppress ethnic minorities, young and working class people even more than before.

These policies have led working class people, who traditionally have voted for Labour to desert them in droves; the party's membership is now down to only 1,900 from more than double that when Labour were elected in 1997. The way the Labour Party has been changed by Tony Blair has pleased nobody but the fat cat business owners and the middle classes. But when Blair (finally!) resigns and is succeeded by Gordon Brown, will this mean the Labour Party adopting policies that are more "socialist" and in the favour of the working class? Some people in Britain might think so, but very few on the demonstration were under those illusions: Brown has never opposed the "war on terror", and has done more to privatise the British economy than even Margaret Thatcher. If he gets into power, we'll see more of the same attacks. That's why Revo's contingent did not stop at condemning Tony Blair, but chanted "Down with Blair! Down with Brown! Drive New Labour out of town!", "Tony Blair - Murderer! Gordon Brown - Murderer! George Bush - Murderer! Get out of Iraq, get out of Iraq, get out of Iraq now!" and "Gordon Brown - we know you! You support Iraq war too!"

Nat reports from Manchester

We were also clear about how we could get these criminals out of the Middle East - and that wasn't by asking them nicely. The US and UK troops will need to be defeated by mass resistance movements. We chanted "Baghdad, Beirut, Kabul, Gaza - Victory to the Intifada" and "Global Intifada, Global Revolution", showing our understanding that the aggressive policies of New Labour will only be put to an end by a revolution against their system, capitalism. These kinds of chants attracted radical young people on the demonstration, who were welcomed into our contingent.

The demonstration passed the G-MEX conference centre, where we boo-ed and hissed and the party leaders inside and chanted "Come out Tony Blair, face your people if you dare!" - funnily enough, he didn't. The march then continued through Manchester, pausing for a short sit-down protest and eventually arriving in Albert Square where a rally was held and we distributed our Revolution magazines and leaflets. We hope that Blair will get the message and get out, but we know that any capitalist government will produce the same kinds of attacks and aggression. That's why we need a mass movement of radical young people to lead the working class to revolution!

All in all it was a great day...

wanker of the month

Puppeteer of an imperialist society, or just a freakin' zombie? You decide!

A real wanker we have ourselves this month. Not just your average, run-of-the-mill ass-hole but a genuine wanker of wankery proportions. The wanker I find myself obligated to describe is none other than Gordon Brown. Possibly the bitter ex-lover in Tony, George and Gordon's love triangle, possibly just another wanker claiming to represent the working class while lining the pockets of the rich.

Despite his attempt at a worker-friendly left-leaning image, he is absolutely no improvement on the current America's-lap-dog we find ourselves faced with.

For a start, his disturbing patriotism is evident in his suggestion of Remembrance Sunday becoming "British Day" to be "unifying, commemorative, dignified and an expression of British ideas of standing firm for the world in the name of liberty." Would these be the "British ideas of standing firm for the world" which involve imperialistic invasions, privatisation and oppression of the working class? Or the ones where we make half-assed publicity stunts to appear somewhat friendly to the poverty-stricken countries our extensive globalisation has only worsened? He is not the replacement for Tony Blair he would like us to think, but simply the next in line for the crown of New Labour - a disgusting excuse for a "working class" party.

The case of the missing media frenzy

You would imagine if rocket launchers, chemicals, and a nuclear or biological suit was found by the police that the media would seize the opportunity to have a field day. However on 2nd of October when one man appeared in court charged with possession of an explosive substance and another charged under the Explosive Substances Act of 1883 the media lay dormant on the matter.

When the corporate media found out about the alleged plot to attack trans-Atlantic flights earlier this year there was blanket coverage of the event. The BBC cancelled its regular schedule to broadcast news reports as they came in (along with repeating the headlines to reinforce their point).

So what's the difference between the two events? The blunt truth is that the two men who were charged were white and therefore did not fit the fascist media's mould for someone capable of a terrorist act. Not only that, but one of the men, Robert Cottage was a BNP election candidate.

This is a clear example of the deep underlying racism in the media. Even the "liberal" BBC remained silent on the issue. Had they been Muslim, they would have been vilified and paraded to the people as an excuse to allow new, fascist anti-terror laws to be passed and to remind the world why an imperialist war is the only solution.

The media are left with a problem. They cannot show a supporter of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to be performing the same acts as the so-called enemy and therefore remained silent. What hypocrisy!

By Joel in Bingley

Bolivia: workers must take power!

by Jo in Leeds

"The discriminators, the exploiters, the marginalisers, the haters towards the peasants movements have to be stopped, as well as inequality and injustice." These are the words of Bolivian President Evo Morales when his party the Movement towards Socialism secured a majority in the elections to the Constituent Assembly in the summer.

Bolivia is a materially wealthy country with lots of oil and gas resources. However, historically it has been governed by right wing administrations that have ensured the benefits of these resources go the big energy multi-nationals and a very small Bolivian elite. In the last fives years there has been mounting resistance to government policies, including huge militant mass movements against water privatisation and for the nationalisation of the country energy resources.

This was the background to the election of Morales as president in 2005. Morales is a classic reformist populist politician, he has made bold promises to the Bolivian masses but now stands at the head of a capitalist state tied to the interests of the Bolivian ruling class. In the Constituent Assembly he has made a series of climb downs to appease the right wing.

On the 6th of August when it first convened Morales agreed to pressure from the right wing for any reforms the assembly passed had to be carried by a two third majority - a ruling that was totally undemocratic. However, he then backed down at the beginning of September changing the voting system was changed to allow reforms to be passed by a simple majority. This was only after a huge political struggle by the radical masses, which resulted in major physical confrontations with right wing street gangs. The right then walked out of the assembly in protest and following negotiations the two third majority rule was re-introduced for votes on regional autonomy.

This wavering between the demands of the left and right is characteristic of the position Morales has put himself in, as an arbiter between the demands of both sides. However, it is only the militancy of the masses that has forced Morales to accept some of their demands. On the key question of nationalisation of the energy resources he has stood firm - in his defence of the right. He has also rejected out of hand the 100% nationalisation without compensation and argued that foreign companies had a right to make a profit. The measures he has put in place have been limited to increase in taxation and allowed the state oil company to buy a 51% share in foreign ones.

It is not just social movements that have confronted the bosses in Bolivia, the revolutionary up heavals have also led to more strikes. Over the last year there have been strikes and walkouts in numerous industries: education, transport, airlines and textiles to name only a few. In le Paz when teachers went on strike for better pay and conditions, the education minister, Felix Patzi, denounced the strike and went so far as to support parents marching on teachers houses.

Over the summer, the government sent in the police and army to attack peasants in the Movement of the Roofless and the Movement without Land who had begun to take over land themselves. They were impatient to wait for Morales' promised reform, which is in any case limited to the nationalisation of land which is not already being used by big land owners (i.e. the least productive land).

The workers and social movements are mobilising but so too are the forces of reaction. Following Morales election top civil servants, generals and businessman held secret meetings for the drafting of a new constitution when Morales fell. The are clearly preparing the ground for a coup which they would use to smash the social movements and workers organisations.

Morales' response has been completely inadequate to say the least. He has been conciliatory to the right to retain his position while at the same time he attempting to demobilise the movement on the left that brought him to power.

What next?

The government party MAS is not a working class party but a classic party of Latin American populism. It seeks to unite the 'whole nation' but in truth it has a pro-capitalist leadership that ties its popular peasant and working class base to the interests of Bolivian capitalism.

This class contradiction led to major conflicts inside the MAS. In La Paz recently fighting broke out amongst members in a meeting and the police had to be called. The working class and peasants of Bolivia need to be prepared to fight for their own interests and organise themselves rather than put trust in the mis-leadership of Morales and the MAS.

The burning issue for the movement in Bolivia is that of a revolutionary leadership. This is vital to take to the struggle forward: to expropriate and disarm the right and meet the needs of the workers and poor. The COB debated the need for a party at its conference last year; now it must convene a meeting to launch a new party with a revolutionary socialist program.

Such a party needs to have a programme for action: to demand nationalisation, land reform, to arm the workers to defend themselves against the attacks of the right.

There have already been the beginnings of revolutionary organisation with the establishment of a soviet type body in El-Alto. This should be re-launched and similar workers' councils set up around the country, which are truly democratic with recallable delegates and majority decision making.

Vital to winning these demands and waging this struggle will be a revolutionary party fighting throughout the mass movement for these demands and for turning the struggle in Bolivia towards socialist revolution across Latin America.

... Mexico: workers must take power!

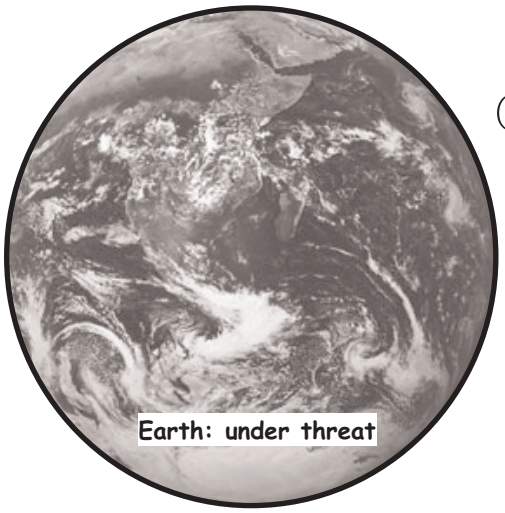
From March this year, when strikes and demonstrations in Mexico were brutally repressed by police, Mexico has been in a growing crisis. After the right-wing candidate Calderon came to power through a fraudulently won election in July, millions took to the streets refusing to accept the result; believing left-wing rival Obrador to be the legitimate president. This marked the eruption of a revolutionary situation with huge protests and rallies taking place across the country. A staggering 2 million people (including a million people registered as delegates from local communites, workers organisations, etc) assembled in Mexico city to declare Obrador the legitimate president - they even took a vote to declare him the legitimate president.

In the city of Oaxaca the situation is at its most advanced. The workers and peasants have set up a rival government, the Popular Assembly of the People of Oaxaca, which is based on democratically elected delegates and is gaining power.

It organises local assemblies, barricades and militias to protect against right-wing thugs and is in control of important areas like transport and government buildings. This is a great success which shows the possibility of a society controlled and run by the masses, and it's got the Mexican ruling classes quaking in their boots - but also willing and able to attack it with troops, tanks, helicopters and aircraft in order to destroy the rebellion.

To defeat this reactionary force before it defeats them, the masses will need to continue setting up their own committees, militias and police forces, and spread these organs beyond Oaxaca to the whole of Mexico. They will need to lead an insurrection that takes all power away from the capitalist state and puts it into the hands of the workers and peasants. A political organisation - a revolutionary socialist party - must be built fighting for these policies across the country. In this way the huge revolutionary struggle can be driven forward to a socialist revolution.

by Nat in Leeds


Earth: under threat

capitalism is leading us to environmental disaster

A recent article on climate change, published by the Independent, has revealed how we have finally reached the point of no return - that the damage we are inflicting on the planet daily is so extensive that even the most radical reforms may not be enough to avoid global environmental catastrophe.

The most serious threat is climate change caused by the production of carbon dioxide (CO_2) through the burning of fossil fuels like oil and coal for energy. This is now so severe that it may be too late to prevent the familiar predictions of catastrophic events of climate change - drought and starvation, the melting of ice-caps leading to flooding, and other disasters like hurricanes like Katrina last year.

Additionally, the article pointed to the completely unsustainable eating away at the world's resources as a result of capitalist consumerism. Besides the likely exhaustion of supplies of coal and gas in the not-too-distant future, huge levels of deforestation and over-fishing is equally a massive threat to the ecosystem of hundreds of thousands of animal species.

The government, and their counterparts across the world, agree that this huge damage is being inflicted - it would be hard to deny seeing as scientific reports like the one in the Independent are being published all the time. So why are they totally failing to take the necessary action to stem this crisis?

The reason, which The Independent chose to ignore, is that the system the governments back up - capitalism - is largely responsible for the damage. It is the ferocious economic drive of the capitalist system that makes all social issues subordinate to the needs of business which is creating this huge crisis. It is big business that is struggling to consume more and more of the worlds resources in order to secure markets and sustain profits for their big shareholders. It is just not profitable for them to consider the environment, to seriously invest in energy sources, to stop plundering the rainforests, and they will continue to do all these things as long as the profit system exists.

Instead of the anarchy of the market, in which firms compete with one another, hoping to drive each other out of business, we propose that production is socially owned and run on the basis of need not profit. It is only when we can democratically plan the use of the world's human and natural resources that we will be able to eliminate poverty through an expansion of production that is environmentally sustainable.

That's why REVOLUTION fights for revolution to overthrow the profit system and establish socialist planning.

Join the demonstration on 4th November against climate change, in London (for details see page 2)...

By Luke and Amy in Leeds

Mining causes toxic mudslide

by Simon in London

Unregulated deep mining on the Indonesian island of East java has resulted in tonnes of toxic mud pouring out from underground.

The mining company Lapindo Brantas was doing gas exploratory work near some villages when the explosions caused a rupture which resulted in the mud slides. The mud is full of Hydrogen Sulphide, which is poisonous and has resulted in 12,000 medical treatments being carried out, 4 Villages have been submerged beneath the mud flow and 10,000 people have been displaced.

The mud covers an area of over 20 square kilometers and is approaching Indonesia's second largest city of Surabaya.

The government has decided to pour the mud into the sea in order to stop it form endangering any more homes or public health. The environmental impact of this is estimated to be huge, making much of the coastline uninhabitable for some time to come.

The mud has been pouring out for over 3 months and shows no signs of stopping. Scientists still don't know when the mud flow will stop.

As a poor country, which is forced to pay huge loans to the international financial institutions and open its markets to domination and control by the big multi-national companies, Indonesia has developed limited infastructure with

which it could deal with these disasters. They have compounded the already crippling levels of poverty throughout the country.

REVOLUTION demands reparations to the poor nations who continued to be exploited and robbed by the imperialist countries like Britain, France, Japan and the United States.

In those countries public works programmes must be organised, democratically controlled by the workers and poor to solve the huge social problems. We must put an end to the madness and chaos of the market that exists in no one's interest except the rich.

STOP THE BNP!

There is mass disillusionment with Labour in poor working class communities across Britain. This Labour government has talked about fighting child poverty but introduced a poverty minimum wage. It has talked about affordable housing but continued the Tory policies of selling off council houses. Worse still, it has resorted to using the race card to whip up support: blaming asylum seekers for Britain's problems and clamping down on immigration.

It is Labour's failure to help working people and racism from the press and the government that are creating conditions for the rise of the British National Party (BNP).

In its 2005 election manifesto the BNP called for an immediate halt to all immigration because it argued 'native Britons' (i.e. white people) are becoming a 'minority in their own land'. In truth, although they dare not say so, the BNP are in favour of an all white Britain and the forced repatriation of ethnic minorities. The BNP has tried to down play its neo-Nazi past in the hope of gaining credibility in elections. This needs to be exposed - everyone must be made aware that the BNP is a fascist organisation, whose aim is an all white Britain.

Several of the leading members of the BNP hold sympathies for the former Nazi regime in Germany. Mark Collett, youth leader of the BNP, said in 2002 that he would rather live in 1930's German than in 21st Century Britain. Both Griffin and Chris Beverley (Cllr Morley south (Leeds)) hold similar sympathies. Griffin has been previously convicted of holocaust denial. These Nazi politics are present across the BNP and in its various front organisations.

Griffin and Collett are both due in court on October 30th charged with incitement to racial hatred. They were filmed in meetings around Yorkshire making openly racist statements. Griffin described Islam as "an evil wicked faith", whilst Collett described asylum seekers as "a little bit like cockroaches". We completely oppose Griffin's claim that he is "engaging in legitimate political dialogue about issues which concern ordinary working people", and that his recent acquittal is a "tremendous victory for freedom".

We say that the speeches he made are not in the interest of the working class at all, but rather in the interests of big business and the capitalist class. Wherever this rhetoric is repeated there is an increase in violence towards ethnic minorities. By demonising Muslims and asylum seekers, not only is the real question of what harms the working class fudged (it is capitalism!), but that the working-class is in danger of becoming divided and being unable to unite in opposition to this system of poverty and exploitation. Though we do not agree with state censorship, and do not hold any confidence in the state to properly deal with these fascist groups, this is further evidence that BNP meetings are being used to spread a fascist message.

Fascism, despite all of its claims about 'standing up for working people', succeeds only in splitting the working class. In Germany the Nazi party created a schism between the workers and their fellows class brothers and sisters in the Jewish, gay, and gypsy population. As a fascist party, it also turned its guns upon the workers movement itself. Trade unions, socialist parties, and even the socialist democratic party, that had appeased Hitler for years, were all made illegal. Working hours were increased, and working conditions plummeted.

It was the members of the capitalist class such as Thyssen and Hugenburg who Hitler had held regular meetings with since 1920 who benefited, and who now had a subjugated workforce with no rights leaving them at the mercy of the bosses drive to super exploitation.

The BNP is no different, and its policies of no more immigration and its campaigns against Islam mirror the campaign that Hitler orchestrated in the 1920s. Just replace the words Jews with Muslims and the similarities become apparent. Slogans such as "England for the English" attempt to divide the international working class by racial and national boundaries. If we are split like this then we cannot unite in an effective force to combat the reactionary state, and the rich and powerful continue to laugh all the way to the bank.

Far right marches are not as regular an occurrence only because of the efforts of militant anti-fascists at places such as Cable Street in 1936 and Lewisham in 1977 (check out our article) to physically no platform the fascists. Whenever the far-right do march, however, it is always a big deal for them and there is regularly an increase in racial tension.

The slogan of England for the English is perfectly absurd, bearing in mind that England has always been a "mongrel nation", a nation formed of immigrants from all over Europe. This is why whenever the BNP or any fascist group attempts to march or hold a demonstration, they must be stopped using a policy of physical no platform.

The BNP is no ordinary party. They aim to build a mass party that is capable of enforcing their will on the streets through physical force. Known 'reds' (read: anyone on a demonstration that includes left wingers) are subject to brutal beatings, arson attacks, and intimidation in order to silence their opposition to the BNP. Alex McFadden (Merseyside TUC president) was brutally attacked on his doorstep by a man pretending to be in need of help.

Even if we do not choose to confront them, even if we step back and cowardly state that they deserve free speech, then they will still violently suppress any voice which attempts to challenge racism, or immigration policy, and in the end they will come for each and every opponent of the state. That is of course unless we stop them - TODAY. Hitler himself admitted that the only thing that could have stopped the Nazi party was an iron boot in their face when they were still small. This is what is necessary to stop the BNP today.

By Mike from Leeds and Andy from Pudsey

Nick Griffin, the leader of the BNP, first tarnished the world with his presence in 1959. Born into a rich family he attended a public school before studying law at Cambridge. His fascist career started very early - at the age of 14 he ran as a National Front candidate in a mock-election at his school and in 1978 he became a national organiser for the Front before leaving in 1989. He joined John Tyndall's BNP in 1995 and had achieved total leadership of the party by 1999. In 1998 he was convicted for inciting racial hatred and is now facing a retrial on similar charges.

Griffin has changed the colours of his fascism so many times that even other ex-NF members call him a 'political chameleon'. Most recently he has tried to force the public image of the BNP down the path of 'respectability and electability' whilst maintaining the support and involvement of its skinhead thugs. He is openly racist, believes white people to be superior and in need of a homeland and to top it all he denies that the holocaust ever happened. Griffin is a hard-line fascist, and he's a clever one at that. He knows the BNP won't achieve success if they're honest about their aims, and this just makes him more dangerous.

Mark Collett began his political life in the National Front and became its student organiser before switching his allegiance to the British National Party. Up until November 2002, he was the leader of 'Young BNP', the youth wing of the British National Party. The Channel 4 documentary "Young, Nazi and Proud" dispelled the myth that the BNP no longer have association with the Nazis, exposing Collett as a clear supporter of Hitler and a strong Nazi sympathiser.

As a result of this he was sacked from his position as leader of "Young BNP" - undoubtedly to prevent any political damage to the party. He was also filmed making extreme racist and anti-Semitic comments, such as "Jews have been thrown out of every country, including England. There's not a single European country the Jews have not been thrown out of, and when it happens so many times, it's not just persecution. There's no smoke without fire ", and declaring his adoration of Hitler's Germany, insisting that he would prefer to live in 1930s Germany than in many cities of northern England today and that he could not understand why people should find images of German soldiers giving Nazi salutes upsetting.

So the outrageously racist comments by Collett in the Panorama documentary which he is now on trial for are by no means the first example of Collett inciting racial hatred. Mark Collett is a fascist through and through. Both his neo-Nazi past in the NF and his present leadership in the BNP are testament to this. Despite his new suited, "respectable" image, Collett is still a violent racist thug and the BNP is still a fascist party.

August 1977: The Battle of Lewisham

It is popular idea nowadays that the way to oppose fascists is through elections, by simply arguing against their reactionary ideas. This is not the case.

Fascism bases itself on those sections of society who are crushed by the poverty and alienation of capitalism, and the reactionary middle classes who are outset of the progressive organisation of the trade union movement. It is an ideology that espouses racist political violence and is designed to divide the working-class, indeed create civil war between workers of different race. It cannot just be contested at the ballot box or through anti-racist and anti-fascist ideas but must also be fought on the streets and in the communities where they try to organise.

On the streets of Lewisham in 1977, the fascist National Front faced a humiliating defeat at the hands of thousands of anti-fascist activists. It heralded the beginning of the end for the National Front and the start of a mass anti-fascist movement. It also clearly showed that the police and the state will not protect communities from fascists.

The 1970s were a time of great discontent in Britain. Both unemployment and inflation were on the rise under the Conservative Government of Edward Heath and trade unions were starting to fight back. The miners strike actually brought down the conservative government in 1974 but it wasn't just the left that were on the march. As immigrants communities were increasingly made scapegoats for Britain's problems the fascist National Front was also on the rise.

National Front, set up in 1967 as an umbrella group uniting many different fascist and Neo-Nazi organisations, had grown to around 20,000 members and had come very close to over-taking the Liberal Democrats as the third party in British politics.

The NF however was not just an electoral party. Areas where they had managed to gain footholds through elections saw a massive increase in racist attacks, including attacks on young people in schools and colleges. In addition to this the NF were holding huge demonstrations in areas where they were standing to increase their vote and in immigrant communities to intimidate and abuse the residents. There was fierce opposition to these marches but often the anti-fascist activists and angry locals came away battered and defeated by the truncheons of a racist police force that were determined to let the fascists march. This wasn't always the case, however, and on August 13th, 1977 the Battle of Lewisham took place.

The events leading up to the Battle of Lewisham involved the arrest of 18 black youths following an apartheid style raid with doors being knocked down and people grabbed from their beds. In the aftermath of the arrests a defence campaign was organised for the Lewisham 18.

The NF reacted by calling an 'anti-mugging' march for August 13th. They were set to assemble at around 1:30pm on a hill at the top of Lewisham before marching down into the town centre. All police leave was cancelled and it was the first time that riot police had ever been deployed in mainland Britain.

The Communist Party and various religious and community groups had organised a counter demonstration that marched to a point quite near the NF assembly point but then attempted to disperse long before the NF arrived. The Socialist Workers' Party took part in this first demonstration but then leafleted for a second demonstration to meet at the NF assembly point and confront the fascist threat head on. The SWP had spent the days and weeks leading up to the demonstration making clear they were prepared to use physical violence to no platform the fascists so the anti-fascist demonstrators were physically and ideologically prepared for the coming confrontation.

Demonstrators blocked off the route which the NF was due to take but the police, determined to let the fascists march, sent first foot police and then mounted police through the crowd in order to clear a path. This radicalised the protesters and hundreds started throwing bottles, rocks and other missiles over the heads of the police at the NF.

The NF march managed to set off but further down the hill it was spotted by more protesters who charged the police line and eventually broke through. NF banners were seized, with many being burnt, and protesters linked arms to avoid arrest. According to one eye-witness, "[the fascists] were so scared. I've never seen people go green before."

The anti-fascists were pushed back after this scuffle and the NF allowed to re-group. By this point the many different anti-fascist components and hundreds of local black youth had joined together into one mass counter demonstration and again started pelting the fascists and police with missiles.

It eventually became clear that the bruised and battered fascists could no longer complete their march and so they abandoned it and dispersed after covering less than half of their planned route. They had been defeated!

It was a great moment in anti-fascist history. As well as managing to force the National Front from the streets of Lewisham it also split the organisation into various fragments, many of which went on to form the British National Party we confront today.

For anti-fascist activists it showed that fascism and racism could be confronted and defeated and it was the start of the growth of a mass anti-fascist movement in Britain. It demonstrated that with the correct tactics anti-fascists and anti-racists could defeat the fascists on the streets of Britain.

Honour the events of 1977 by joining the demonstration on October 30th (see page 2) and fighting the BNP wherever they try to show their face!

Life in Morley after BNP win

In May Christopher Beverley won the Morley South seat for the BNP, beating the Morley Independent Party by 293 votes. This is the first (and hopefully the last) time the BNP have won a seat in Morley. Here is a short account of my experience in Morley before and after the local elections.

Shortly before the election I saw a number of school students climbing lampposts to take down BNP signs and boasting to their friends that they were going to put them on their bedroom walls. I also witnessed students chanting racist slogans and confronting people who didn't agree with them. In the months since the elections there has been a great increase in racial abuse in my local area, creating a large divide in the working class and preventing them from uniting in the fight against the capitalism.

I saw this change happen, more dramatically than anywhere else, in my school (Morley High School). Every day I see pupils from many different year groups, be it year 7s or 11s, making racist comments and jokes. The school seems to be ignoring this fact and, although I admit to not trying to open teachers' eyes to what's going on as much as I should, there is no way that the staff and even other pupils could have missed this increase in racism. It's not just the pupils who live in Morley, one of my friends from Beeston recently said to me, "You should try living in Beeston, then you could see that what the BNP are doing is a good thing!" The BNP's victory also seemed to coincide with the arrival of quite a few Asian and Chinese pupils, which has only fueled the increasing racial intolerance.

As the level of racism increases so does the divide in working class youth, making it increasingly difficult to unite them around the things that really matter, like defending themselves from attacks by the current Labour government. The division of the working class by the BNP is a highly destructive activity that needs to be combated by a large anti-racist/anti-fascist campaign; a campaign that is willing to challenge the lies spread by the BNP and the capitalist media about immigrants and asylum seekers and defend themselves from the fascists by what ever means necessary, a campaign that offers socialist answers to the problems faced by the working class, be it poverty, poor housing or the increasingly poor services being offered to workers.

Whenever I try to bring up the fact that what the BNP are doing is wrong and that they should be stopped I get one of two responses; Either I'm completely ignored, which happens more often than not, or people seem to agree with me but aren't willing to do anything, because it makes them stand out from their peers and potentially become a target for BNP supporters. With the increasing threat of violence towards anti-fascists/anti-racists the need for an organisation willing to defend itself and its supporters from physical attack also increases.

Things are only going to get worse for the working class if we continue to allow the BNP a platform to spread their racist and fascist views. We need to unite and drive out the enemies of the working class before it's too late!

By Sam, Morley

is anywhere safe in the "war on terror"?

By Luke and Nat (Leeds) Josh and Rebecca (Manchester)

(we didn't have room to put their names on each aticles so you'll have to guess)

IRAQ

A report from the medical journal The Lancet has recently come out which puts the total deaths caused by the invasion and occupation of Iraq at 655,000. This is the highest estimate of the death toll of the Iraq war to date, but is also widely regarded as the most thorough survey. A UN report also shows that this year alone 365,000 Iraqis have been made homeless.

Shortly after the publication of these reports, it came to light that a leading British commander, General Sir Richard Dannat, has said that the British army's "presence [in Iraq] exacerbates the security situation" and that he has "much more optimism that we can get it right in Afghanistan". The latter being a country where another British commander described the fighting involving his forces as the most intense they have faced for half a century!

The resistance in Iraq shows no sign of letting up. Recent weeks have seen increased attacks on coalition troops and the Iraqi police as well as an attack on a US base where arms were kept.

But at the same time as the increase in struggle against the imperialist occupiers, Iraq also risks being drawn into a civil war. Indeed, a large proportion of the 655,000 reported as killed in The Lancet is thought to be because of sectarian violence. Every few days another story comes out of Iraq showing more bodies of Sunni or Shia civilians killed by other civilians. Many of the attacks being made in Iraq are not against coalition troops or their lackies in the Iraqi police force or army but by ordinary Iraqis against other ordinary Iraqis.

The imperialist governments use this sectarian violence as "proof" that they need to keep occupying the country. But the escalation of ethnic conflicts in Iraq proves just the opposite. The tensions between Sunni and Shia have been stoked up deliberately by the occupying forces so as to play the classic imperialist game of 'divide and rule'. Keep them fighting one another so they do not band together to take on you!

However, despite media coverage sectarian violence makes up only 10% of attacks in Iraq. The masses can still be won to a united resistance to this occupation and the puppet government. Sectarian violence in Iraq and even civil war will only play into the hands of the imperialist occupiers.

N. KOREA

Relatively overlooked member of George Bush's "axis of evil" North Korea has hit the headlines recently after it claimed to have made its first nuclear weapons test on October 9th.

Anyone who looks at the increasing number of stories about its weapons, its brutal regime and the need for the UN to do something about it all may be reminded of the stories that do the rounds about Iran, or Iraq a few years ago, or Afghanistan before that… In fact almost the same stories can be found about any "regime" (read: country) that the US wants to "change" (read: invade).

Recent developments in North Korea are testimony to one of the defining features of the world today: it is the US that is the main cause of injustice, war and instability across the globe.

Over the past five years the US has launched all-out wars in Afghanistan and Iraq; has payrolled racist and expansionist Israel and its war on Lebanon; and not content with that has made threats of sanctions and the use of force against Iran, Syria and, yes, North Korea.

A UN resolution has been passed which imposes sanctions on North Korea. China and Russia pushed for this resolution to specifically exclude threats of the use of force. They pointed to UN resolutions on Iraq being used to provide legal cover for the war on Iraq. With North Korea the US is still in these preparatory stages; it cannot afford another conflict on another continent given its current quagmire in the Middle East.

In opposing a further attack on North Korea and defending in the event of an attack, we do not for a moment ignore the fact that it has a brutal dictatorship.

Talk of the "communist regime" appears in many politicians' speeches and media coverage but North Korea is anything but communist. It is the same kind of "communism" that was found in Stalin's USSR or Mao's China: the rule of a privileged bureaucratic caste that sit at the top of a planned economy.

At a time where the US is waging war across the world and has nearly 10,000 nuclear weapons of its own (as well as reserving for itself the right to use them pre-emptively) it is no surprise that countries on its hit list are seeking weapons to defend themselves with.

REVOLUTION defends North Korea's rights to have nuclear weapons and would work to defend it in the event of invasion by the United States. We fight across the world for the overthrow of capitalism and the establishment of truly democratic states controlled by working people.

AFGHANISTAN

In early October NATO took responsibility of the occupation of Afghanistan. NATO's leadership of the occupation comes as a result of two things. First, to attempt to make the occupation more palatable to people in the Middle East and South Asia by changing the name of the occupiers. Second, to help ease the strain on US troops and allow them to focus on trying to bring Iraq under their control.

The name of the force may have changed but its role is still about the securing the control of the Middle East for the US and its allies. US interests suffered a major reversal with the defeat of Israel in Lebanon, and in Iraq and Afghanistan they also find themselves under serious pressure.

There are daily attacks on occupying troops and their stooges in the Afghan army and police force they have set up. The first two weeks of October alone saw the killing of four NATO troops. A leading British commander said in August that the fighting was the most intensive and sustained combat British troops had been involved in since the Second World War.

The upsurge in resistance to the occupiers in Afghanistan shows that for all the money they plough in to trying to implement their plans for domination (the amount spent on the wars Iraq and Afghanistan by the US currently stands at $507bn) they will always face opposition and they can be beaten.

PALESTINE

This summer, as the Israeli army launched a huge military bombardment on Southern Lebanon, they continued their attacks on Gaza and the West Bank with the same brutality. In the space of three months 240 Palestinians were killed, almost all of whom were civilians, in response to the capture of a single Israeli soldier on Palestinian territory. At the same time Israel has imprisoned 27 representatives of the democratically elected Hamas government and suspended payments owed to them, meaning the majority of working Palestinians are not being paid at all - not to mention the two thirds who are unemployed in a society plagued by poverty.

Rather than aiding this people in crisis, Western governments cut off essential aid to the Palestinian Authority as soon as Hamas were voted in. This has lead to mass starvation for the Palestinian people as a "punishment" for democratically electing a party of which the US and UK imperialists do not approve. Perhaps like never before in our society, there is now a great awareness of the hypocrisy of Western governments, a lack of illusions in their claims to be fighting for democracy in the Middle East, and the true crimes of the Israeli state.

Despite the withdrawal of 8,000 settlers from Gaza last year there remain at least 230,000 in the West Bank across 200 settlements. The size and scale of each varies but the story behind each is the same: the areas with the most arable productive land and water resources are carved out, the Palestinians forcibly removed and squeezed into ever more over-crowded enclaves. The settlers can move freely in the West Bank along roads to which the Palestinians have no access and they are protected by the brute force of the so-called Israeli "Defence" Forces (IDF).

The recent creation of the apartheid wall is intended to bring many of these settlements permanently into Israeli territory, redrawing the latter's borders in order to create a greater Israel. Even the United Nations, not a body known for being a dove of peace, has passed numerous resolutions condemning the Israeli settlements.

Some of the settlers are ideologically driven religious fundamentalists, passionate believers in the glory of an ever-greater expanding Jewish state. Others are simply economically motivated. The Israeli state offers settlers cheap high quality housing and low cost loans that are particularly taken up by new immigrants into Israel.

These settlers may not even be aware that the plush, modern and comfortable houses they have bought are built on land stolen from the Palestinians, and that at a small distance away from their luxurious gardens and swimming pools lies a parched, impoverished land with barely enough water to tend to crops. Mainly though, they just don't want to know, or worse, they think it is all the Palestinians deserve because Israel is "their" land.

Whether economically or politically motivated the settlers have a record of violence against the Palestinian people, from setting up illegal roadblocks and burning cars to destroying crops. This colonial settler violence, a reality today for the people of Palestine, will be familiar to anyone who has heard about the settlement of the American West in the 19th century. The US political elite justified the extermination of the Native Americans on the basis of 'manifest destiny,' a romantic nationalist notion that argued it was a God-given destiny of the white man to control North America.

The West Bank and Gaza have been under occupation since the Israeli victory in the 1967 Six Day War and the discourse surrounding Israeli settlements refers to the slow but steady colonisation of the occupied territories pursued by Israeli governments since. However, the very foundation of the Israeli state was built on the same colonisation logic. In 1948 some 300,000 Palestinians were forcibly removed from their land, 13,000 were murdered, and 78% of Palestine was occupied to found the state of Israel.

The Israeli settler state requires a permanent flow of new migrants, constant expansion into Palestinian land and huge levels of economic aid to survive. For its backers in London and Washington it means a policeman in the oil rich and politically unstable Middle East. The Zionist dream of the Jewish state is the ideological narrative that underpins this whole reactionary project; it is truly the 'manifest destiny' of our time.

Socialists must reject this project to its very core. There will never be peace in the Middle East until this racist state, which gives any Jew a right to residence and citizenship in Israel while denying the same right to the millions of Palestinian refugees, is destroyed. In its place we need to create a single, socialist Palestine where Jews, Muslims and Christians are given equal rights, as part of a Socialist United States of the Middle East.

Health service under attack!

More and more protests against the privatisation of the NHS have been happening since an advert marketing our healthcare service to the highest bidder was sent to the Official Journal of the European Union in June this year.

The Health Secretary Patricia Hewitt made a public statement on the 30th June in which she denied that services in the NHS were being privatised; instead, she chose to use the usual cover-up jargon typical of this Labour government. She described the recent changes as the process of the NHS making "step-change from a service provider to a commissioning-led organisation".

What this means is that Labour want to move towards a system in which the NHS will stop being an actual provider of treatment and instead simply pay private companies to take over patient care. This has major repercussions for the quality of service and also would make it much easier to get rid of the classic NHS principle 'free at the point delivery for everyone' in the future.

Fortunately workers and community activists up and down the country aren't taking this privatisation lying down but are organising to defend services up and down the country.

On the 1st July there was a rally in Maidstone organised by Keep Our NHS Public and Unison in response to the announcement of the privatisation of NHS Logistics, which is to be sold to DHL. Two 24-hour strikes, on the 27th and 28th September, have been carried out at the five distribution centres of NHS Logistics, and UNISON passed a resolution calling for the end of NHS privatisation.

Hundreds of protestors pushed a hospital bed from Hemel Hempstead to Watford to oppose NHS cuts in Hertfordshire. A thousand people marched in Huntingdon (Cambridgeshire), and several thousand demonstrated at Worthing and Southlands, Sussex, linking hands around two hospitals under threat. Other protests have taken place in Epsom and Southampton.

There have also been protests in Huddersfield, where doctors and patients have joined forces against the unacceptable wave of ward and hospital closures and selling of healthcare services to private companies and consultancies. In Cambridgeshire people have organised around the attacks on the mental health sector, which is seen as one of the more dispensable parts of the NHS and suffers first when state-run services are threatened by competition.

In Leeds, on October 1st, all five current Leeds Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) merged to become one pan-Leeds organisation, and because of this and other developments a protest by local people and students was organised in Leeds against privatisation. There was a recent victory in Derbyshire where the local Primary Care Trust lost a court case about their failure to inform the public how private contracts were awarded to private bidders. Protests against cuts have also taken place in Sheffield, Liverpool, Nottingham, Pontefract and Lancaster.

The spate of protests shows that more and more people are acting on their convictions against the drop in quality and accessibility of healthcare services due to the NHS being sold on the market. It is crucial that action continues and the UK-wide anti-NHS privatisation struggle is united.

There have been several campaigns and lobby groups set up to fight NHS privatisation including Health Emergency and Keep the NHS Public. Health Emergency's head of campaigns has adopted militant sounding rhetoric arguing that, “This growing NHS protest could well do for New Labour what the poll tax did for Margaret Thatcher and the Tories.”

The various campaigns are now joining forces in 'NHS Together' launched by the TUC, to unite trade unions on the issue of NHS privatisation. The danger is that action is limited to lobbying and letter writing rather than the militant and sustained action that workers need to win - including strikes. However, the current planned protests are a good start and a national demonstration has been called for next March.

The dismantling of the NHS is one of the main issues through which people are losing faith in New Labour, but not only that; it shows how brutal the capitalist system is for basic needs such as healthcare, and the necessity of the rebuilding and reorganisation of the welfare state.

A mass movement fighting privatisation will have to address the crisis of political representation in Britain, where workers have no representation. We need a new revolutionary workers party to give that representation and this central idea should be injected into the campaign against privatisation.

By Diane in Leeds

news from the huddersfield frontline

Jackie Grunsell was elected onto Huddersfield local council as a representative of the Save Huddersfield Hospital Campaign. She is also a member of the Socialist Party. Our NHS “GURU” John B asked her a few questions…

Why was the Save Huddersfield Hospital Campaign set up?

The trust has been planning to 'centralise' services. In practice this means that many services used by local people would be transferred to Halifax, although some services would be transferred from Halifax to Huddersfield. There are also plans to close St Luke's hospital which would remove an important mental health facility in the area.

Has the Campaign had any successes so far?

In terms of stopping the planned changes, we have not had any successes so far, but what we have managed to do is explain to people and draw awareness of what is happening to our hospitals. We have shown people what plans such as PFI [Private Finance Initiative] are and what they mean in terms of patient care and why they should be opposed, radicalising people and mobilizing them into action.

the reviews

2027: WHEN BAGHDAD CAME TO BRITAIN

Children of Men, at cinemas now...

by Sue, London

Children of Men is a vision of a totalitarian society set Beirut-ised London in 2027. Clive Owen plays a drained, disillusioned, low-down government employee who gave up activism years ago and now spends his time sipping coffee/alcohol and sighing about how awful it all is. This is until his ex-lover, played by Julianne Moore, who is the leader of a terrorist group called the Fishes involves him in helping her smuggle refugee out of the country and his crusading spirit is re-kindled. Michael Caine plays his bearded hippy mentor.

The film's depiction of the not too distant future is particularly convincing, as it is not too far removed from the present… apart from the screens on just about every building and bus! This future London is gritty, despairing and very grey! Terrorism and bombings are very everyday occurrences; pollution has made the population infertile; the oldest person is eighteen and suicide pills are given out for free. But still the relative prosperity and calm of Britain has attracted waves of illegal immigrants who the UK's homeland security department has penned up and locked in cages which line the streets. The biggest is a giant enclosed shanty-town in Bexhill. This is remnant of the Gaza Strip or Abu Graib.

However emotive sentimentality takes precedent over real political critique. Cuaron (the director) tries to turn science fiction into a vehicle for a vaguely leftist critique of the war on terror, and the growing erosion of civil liberties in the west. But the only explanation is that the world has fallen apart since the discovery of human infertility. There's no connection between infertility and the descent into fascism.

Whilst looking at world issues relevant to today, and particularly focusing on the rapid growth of immigration controls, Children Of Men's answer does not lie with the (re)fugees organising alongside the progressive elements of the 'British' people for the overthrow of the barbaric totalitarian government - the possibility of which is hinted at by the Fishers organisation, a group that fight for equal rights for everyone whether immigrant or not.

Instead it relies on the Human Project, which is a mysterious think tank that will somehow solve the infertility of mankind which in turn (in some way not specified) bring an end to the madness of the world crisis. So while it is critical of the direction the British state is taking it doesn't suggest any alternative but hoping for an un-named saviour.

WORK HARD? PLAY HARD...

Metropolis hit Northern Lights, Oct 30th

Some of Leeds REVO hit the town for a drum 'n' bass night - Metropolis at the Northern Light - even dragging a few members over from other cities for it.

Normally this place is a bit of a yuppie cocktail bar but when there's a good night on it makes a top venue with just under 1000 capacity spread out over three rooms and a heated courtyard. You'd think that'd be enough space for everyone but Pendulum were headlining an impressive line-up and it was packed!

Pendulum's first set (dnb) was solid, churning out mixes of their classics and getting the crowd going to the point where sweat was literally dripping from the high ceilings.

One of the highlights of the night was when Pendulum used a cut of Rage Against the Machine during Tarantula. But even more impressive than the dnb set was Pendulum's second set (breaks) in Room 2 downstairs, the first breaks set they've done in the UK outside of London.

There were downsides to the night - Friction barely pulled off a normally stunning 3-deck set and Evil 9's breaks set was on at the same time as Pendulum's dnb set. But this was more than made up for by the immense old school set Ratpack put on.

Personally I'd have paid the entry just for that and Pendulum's two sets but there was one more pleasant surprise - Room 3. Normally an overflow chill-out room tonight local Leeds DJs kept the records spinning all night providing much needed respite from the packed main room without any loss of quality in the music.

All in all an excellent night and I recommend any drum and bass fans to keep an eye out for Metropolis going round the country. Or, as the Leeds MCs say "Oh my days!"

By Alasdair

Where does the campaign go from here?

We seek to make more national links with other campaigns to save our NHS and we will build for the planned lobby of parliament on 1st November. We aim to focus on Trade Union action and also stress the need for a political struggle against the governmental policies behind the continued attacks upon our health service. We need to look at building an alternative to the Labour Party if we are to defeat privatisation.

There seem to be many ongoing campaigns at the moment to save local hospitals in different areas. How is the campaign going at a national level?

We are a local part of the 'Keep Our NHS Public' campaign, but nationally this organisation seems mainly focussed upon articles and research rather than campaigning work. However in a few places, local groups are taking on more of a campaigning focus.

We will also be working with the TUC's 'NHS Together' national Trade Union alliance.

Do you have any criticisms of 'NHS Together'?

Unfortunately I do not think it is going far enough. There is a demonstration in London coming up with they have been reluctant to build for, and really, a national demonstration was needed much earlier than this. It should be coordinating industrial action in the unions, giving encouragement to the membership who are so opposed to what is happening.

calling all students

Fight the Fees!

On Sunday 29th October, students from all across the country will be marching in London to oppose tuition fees and the mounting debt now facing students. According to the NUS, the average debt of students is now up to £20,000 for entrants of 2005.

A large portion of this debt is due to 'variable' tuition fees whereby universities are allowed to set their own levels of fees for students to pay, so long as they are not over £3,000. The introduction of top up fees was clearly a move to create a market in education, which has the effect of putting off less wealthy students from going to certain universities, and some students off further education altogether. Now there is even talk of the £3,000 tuition fee cap being removed altogether meaning universities could charge whatever they like.

The NUS has set up a campaign in response called 'Admission Impossible' launched on 10th September at the Royal Society of Medicine by Brendan Barber, General Secretary of the TUC and Gemma Tumelty, NUS President.

The cheesy and self-defeating title of the campaign aside, it is highly unlikely that it will use its massive budget and membership to build the protest. It will also refuse to generalise and broaden the anti-fees movement, involving all the different layers of people who are angry at the New Labour agenda for education. Rather than building important alliances with lecturers at the universities in spring, the NUS caved into the pressure of right-wing students during the strike over pensions with a position of supporting the lecturers, but wanting the dispute 'resolved' as quickly as possible. Consequently, now, when the students really need the support of education workers, the previous defeat of the lecturers' strike makes it extremely unlikely that lecturers will risk their pay and conditions for the weak student movement of today that so recently let them down.

What is really needed in order for the campaign and demonstration to be a success is to focus on colleges and sixth forms, which are full of young people wanting to take further education, but who are both worried and angered by the prospect of top-up fees. The university student unions need to be mobilising their membership in order to set up student activist groups, extending their reach into these vitally important areas. What is also necessary is to march on 29th October with slogans that both make demands upon the government and reflect the interests of all those in society: teachers, lecturers, students, parents and everyone else who suffers from the increasing corporate involvement, fees and budget cuts in our education system. Cancel all fees now! Free education for all! Tax the rich to fund education! A fair deal for lecturers and teachers!

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WHAT WE STAND FOR

The Independent on Sunday got it right in an "expose" of REVOLUTIONs involvement in organising May Day 2001. It said: "REVOLUTION wants to build a revolutionary socialist mass movement and overthrow capitalism." Exactly right. We are opposed to capitalism and the misery, alienation, war and environmental destruction it creates.

We fight all forms of discrimination and oppression, whether on grounds of sex, race, nationality or sexuality.

Capitalism is a global system, so we have to fight it globally. We want to smash the borders and divisions of nations and move forward to a truly global and united humanity, without bigotry, war and class division. We stand shoulder to shoulder with our sisters and brothers in the Third World struggling to break free of the trillion dollar debt, the IMF, WTO and NATO.

We are socialists - we want to abolish capitalism and replace it with a planned economy. But we do not believe that the capitalist elite will allow their wealth and privilege to be voted out of existence. We believe it will take force to take the power and property away from the few and redistribute into the hands of the many - that means a revolution!

REVO wants young people to participate in radical politics and organise themselves. Young people can be very radical and militant, the anti war movement proved that. They should take a lead in the movement that will shape the struggle for the future.

We believe a mass movement must be built based on the support of the majority of the people - the working class. It is the working class that produces all the wealth in this society. The working class has no interest in keeping capitalism going. Only the working class has the power, the size and the traditions of organisation to bring this rotten system crashing down.

JOIN US!